

...The Annual Christmas Sale...

An Astonishing Array of Record-Breaking Values offered in This Sale which proposes the Closing Out of our stock of Pianos, Organs and Musical Instruments.

It is the time above all times to buy a Piano, as it involves a saving of many dollars to the purchaser. In addition, every Piano purchase includes a Stool and Scaff free of charge. Credit, if you wish it, and absolutely the most reasonable terms that can be offered. If you have the desire to own a Piano, or if you wish to surprise your loved ones at home by giving them an elegant, high-grade instrument on Christmas morning, then we can help you as no other house in Richmond can do. Our record of fair dealing in this city is phenomenal. Our customers are always our friends. We can save you money on every dollar of the Piano price, and, in addition, furnish you a Piano that our name and trade-mark guarantees as being musically perfect, possessing in every degree the tonal quality, silvery sweet and resonant, and of the delightful singing character so prized by lovers of music.

Every Piano or Organ fully guaranteed against defects in material or workmanship. Our guarantee backed by \$2,000,000 capital.

An Xmas Present That Will Be Appreciated.

Piano Player, Price \$150

Even the children can play the Piano with the aid of this wonderful instrument. A world of music and the most difficult masterpieces can be played without the necessity of previous study.

Mechanism pneumatic, fingers felt-covered, phrasing lever control renders the touch a perfect imitation of the human hand.

Fully Guaranteed in Every Respect. Sold on Easy Terms.

Special Prices, Xmas Only

Several Carloads Upright Pianos, ordered especially for Xmas trade, **\$150**

Mason & Hamlin Pianos, the world-renowned Piano, recognized as the standard of the Piano world. Uprights and Grands. Lowest price consistent with the grade of the instrument.

Conover, Cable, Kingsbury, Wellington, De Koven, and other celebrated makes of The Cable Company.

Prices in every case guaranteed to be the lowest possible for the money elsewhere.

We are Distributors for Victor Talking Machines.

Buy a Victor for Christmas—\$10.00 and up.

You will have a machine that can reproduce the human voice so perfectly that the most delightful melodies of the greatest singers in the world can be exactly reproduced in your own home.



A Carload of Victor Talking Machines is here ready for you to select from.

Ten thousand Victor Records, probably the largest single shipment ever received, will enable you to get the very latest music, popular airs, operas, the great works of classic music; in fact, anything that you desire in the music line.

Think of it! The magnificent voice of Scotti, the delightful tenor of Caruso, the superb voices of Melba, Nordica, Schumann Heineck, and scores of the greatest singers of the world.

Talking Machine Dep't.

Phonographs and Graphophones from \$10.00 to \$100.00.

Cylinder and Disc Machines, \$10.00 to \$100.00.

Phonograph Cylinder Records, 25c each, to fit any machine.

The Talking Machine is a home amusement that will satisfy every one. By its aid every department of music is moved to your own home. The stirring marches, the delightful, dreamy waltzes, humorous comedy monologues and vocal selections from the world's greatest singers, all in your home if you own a Talking Machine. We sell them on easy terms; you pay when the strain on your pocket-book is over.

Small Instruments, Sheet Music, &c.

Small instruments of every description—Guitars, Banjos, Mandolins, Music Boxes, Harmonicas, Sheet Music and Music Cabinets. Violins at any price from five dollars into the hundreds.

Credit if desired. See list of prices.

Banjos from \$1.50 up. Guitars from \$3.50 up.

Violins from \$5.00 up.

Music Rolls, 75c, \$1.00, \$2.00, \$3.00. Large assortment to select from.

The Cable Company, - Richmond, Virginia.

Queries AND Answers

A Widow's Card.

Should a widow's card bear the first name of her husband, or her maiden name? For example, should it be engraved "Mrs. John Smith" or "Mrs. Mary Smith," and about what size card is correct? Your answer will be appreciated. A SUBSCRIBER.

It should read "Mrs. Mary Smith." The card should be about 3x2.

Belgian Hares.

Will you kindly advise me through your valuable paper where I can find or

buy some genuine Belgian rabbits, and oblige, J. E.

Ask George W. Kolner, Commissioner of Agriculture, Richmond, Va.

Railroad Earnings.

Do not the railroads operating in Virginia have to make a detailed report of earnings and expenditures? If so, to whom do they make this report, and where and from whom could I get a copy? AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Yes. Apply to the State Corporation Commission, Richmond, Va., or if you will write to Miller & Co., Richmond,

Va., enclosing five cents postage, they will send you a little book containing perhaps all the information you require.

An Author's Royalty.

Will you please answer through the Query Column what has an author to protect him when he publishes manuscripts on royalty plan?

A SUBSCRIBER.

An author who sells on royalty should have a contract entitling him to examine the publisher's accounts, if he doubts the publisher's honesty.

The Tariff.

Is there any duty (customs) on goods brought from Mexico and Canada to the United States, and do men patrol the border for that purpose? K.

Answer to both questions: Yes.

St. Leger.

1. Please give the correct pronunciation of St. Leger.
2. Which is proper in reading to call it, of Legeer, or &c.? SUBSCRIBER.

1. Saint Lej-er, or Sillinger.
2. Et cetera.

Pension for Widows.

I saw in the papers where a widow of a Civil War soldier could get a pension of \$5 a year, and it did not say whom to apply to.

MRS. A. E. R.

We do not know whether or not you are entitled to a pension. The proper official to apply to is Colonel Morton Mayre, Auditor of Public Accounts, Richmond, Va.

Miss Tarbell's Articles.

Have there been any articles published in magazines relating to the history of the Standard Oil Company? If so, in which magazines, and who are the publishers?

Has anything been published in book form relating to the same subject since Miss Tarbell wrote her book? Kindly give name of publisher and title of book published, if any. C. W. M.

A series of articles on this subject by Miss Tarbell appeared in McClure's Magazine, and have since been published in book form. Address McClure's Magazine, New York.

A Question of Dress.

Will you please answer through the columns of the Sunday Times-Dispatch the following: On what occasions is a Tuxedo suit to be worn? Is it suitable for all occasions upon which a full dress is worn? A READER.

The Tuxedo is worn at informal receptions and dinners; by men going to the club, and in the home. The regulation evening clothes should be worn at large receptions, dances, weddings after 6 P. M., and formal dinners.

Whites in the Philippines.

How many white men are bearing arms in the Philippines that are under pay of the United States government?

JAMESTOWN.

There are between 12,000 and 14,000 soldiers of the regular establishment on duty in the Philippines, including two regiments of negroes. In addition to this, there are several thousand Filipinos enlisted in the Philippine constabulary.

The Next Senate.

Will you please state in your valuable

paper the number of Republican and Democrat Senators each there will be in the next United States Senate?

R. T. M.

Assuming that Colorado will elect a Republican to succeed Senator Patterson; that Montana will elect a Republican to succeed Senator Clark, Democrat; that Idaho will elect a Republican to succeed Senator Duffell; Oregon having already elected a Republican to succeed Senator Gearity, the Democratic strength in the Senate will be reduced from thirty-three to twenty-nine. Oklahoma will send two Democratic Senators, which will give the Democrats thirty-one, and the Republicans, sixty-one. There is a possibility that New Jersey may elect a Democrat to succeed Senator Dryden. The New Jersey Legislature is Republican on joint ballot by a majority of five, but there is serious Republican opposition to the re-election of Senator Dryden, and some politicians predict the election of a Democrat.

"Skidoo."

Will you please tell the public the origin of "Skidoo?"

A SUBSCRIBER.

The slang expression "twenty-three for you," has a classic origin. The addition of the word "skidoo," a corruption of "skiddaddie," or "skiddaddie," came later, and being metrically a perfect substitute for the phrase "for you," it became a part of the whole expression. "Twenty-three" is the final word of the novel "Tale of Two Cities," by Charles Dickens. The knitting women who kept account of the victims of the guillotine in their knitting counted "twenty-three" as Sydney Carton's head rolled into the basket and the story was done. The novel was dramatized under the name of "The Only Way" a few years since, and the curtain fell as the knitting woman said "twenty-three." It signified the end of the show to the stage hands, and they took it up and it became slang. It means, "This is the end; there is no more use; get out; quit it." "Skidoo" means to get away hurriedly.

Weevil.

Will you please answer in the next issue of the Weekly Times-Dispatch a remedy for keeping weevils out of wheat? Also explain what a cold frame is, and how soil should be prepared for it, and oblige, A SUBSCRIBER.

Weevil can be killed in wheat by the use of carbon bisulphide. The carbon bisulphide should be put in a saucer or

shallow vessel, on top of the wheat, and the whole covered with a cloth and left for from twelve to twenty-four hours. The carbon bisulphide volatilizes very quickly, and as the vapors are heavy, it sinks through the wheat, killing all insects. One pound to a hundred bushels of wheat is about the right quantity to use. Care must be used in handling it, as it takes fire very easily indeed. No lighted match or fire should be brought about the building until several hours after the house has been well aired.

A cold frame is intended for the propagation of plants at seasons of the year when weather conditions would be unfavorable to their growth. A plot of ground should be dug about two feet deep and about three or four feet wide; the length may be as long as desired. This space should be partly filled with fresh stable manure well packed, and then covered with rich earth to a depth of about six inches. A framework, made of ordinary boarding, should then be built around this plot, fitting the space snugly, and rising above it to a height of from twelve to eighteen inches, sloping from one side. The framework should be covered with a glass sash, adjusted so that any portion of it may be easily removed, in order that access may be had to the plant-bed beneath it.

AT THE MECKLENBURG

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) CHASE CITY, VA., December 1.—Thanksgiving Day was characterized down Mecklenburg way by glorious weather, a large and congenial company, and splendid sport for the hunters of various kinds of game which the large preserve here afford.

The day's sport was ushered in by the sound of the fox-horn at 6 A. M., when the rosy countenance of "Jocund day" gave greeting and good cheer to the large mounted party which to the music of the hounds and horns, started in quest of the little animal whose name is legion and whose tribe is gray. The hunt was to the westward from the hotel, and a trail was soon struck by old Johnston, the unerring one. The chase was long and the riding hard, resulting in the capture of another large gray fox whose splendid coat was added to those of his departed brethren.

Those who followed the hounds were Mr. and Mrs. John Philip Sousa, New York; Colonel and Mrs. Hughes, Dr. A. H. Boyd, Charleston, W. Va.; Miss Irma Rosenbaum, Richmond; Mr. W. T. Jones, Fredericksburg; Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Hoosier, New York; Miss Bagley, of Jackson, N. C.; Miss Hummer, Newport News; Mr. Harry Davis, Norfolk.

The small-shooters also had a most successful and delightful day. The abundance of quail is continually remarked upon, and daily shipments are made to the markets and to friends of the successful sportsmen.

Mention has already been made in the daily press of the presence here of the distinguished John Philip Sousa and his delightful wife. They have won many friends and admirers here by their charming personality and grace of manner, which, added to their culture and cosmopolitan views, make them delightful company. "Ranger," the beautiful Lewellyn setter belonging to the bandmaster, was presented to him in Scotland by a native who, as Sousa modestly puts it, "fell in love with his hand." "Ranger" is marked most unusually, being white, with large black spots, almost like polka dots. His head is magnificent. The com-

bination of his own and his master's skill in the field bring naturally most satisfactory results, and the great Sousa is thoroughly enjoying his beneficial outing and giving much pleasure to those who meet him.

The small people here had an evening of their own on Wednesday, and the ballroom was given up to them. Their grace and skill in dancing some of the intricate figures was remarked upon, and made a beautiful picture. Those dancing were Miss Elizabeth Locke, of Birmingham, Ala.; Miss Mary Whitaker, of Raleigh, N. C.; Miss Marie Hoveler, of New York; Master William Davis, of Norfolk; Master Buell Cooke, of the Mecklenburg; Master Charles Locke, of Birmingham, Ala.; Master William Whitaker, of Raleigh; Master Miriam Hughes, and Master Will Hughes, of the Mecklenburg.

The figures for these little people were led gracefully by Mrs. J. H. Warner, of Pottsville, Pa., and the older boys and belles of the place were permitted to come in later.

The hunters come and go, and then come again. A very delightful family group here is that of Mr. H. V. Hoosier, wife and daughter, of New York City. Mr. Hoosier is one of the largest trout importers in New York City, and comes annually for his hunting in these preserves.

Mr. Kirk Parrish, of the Richmond Cedar Works, is spending some time here, convalescing from an attack of malaria. His friend, Mr. Waller Scott, of Richmond, spent last Sunday with him.

Mr. W. J. Richards, of Pottsville, Pa., second vice-president and general manager of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, spent a day or two hunting here last week.

Richmond has been delightfully represented during the past week by Mrs. W. B. Rosenbaum, Miss Irma Rosenbaum, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Cannon and Mrs. W. J. Jones. Miss Rosenbaum was a very

enthusiastic horsewoman, and rode regularly to the hounds.

Invitations have been issued to the reception and banquet given here on the evening of December 15th to Dr. John V. Shoemaker, of Philadelphia, under the auspices of the Mecklenburg County Medical Society. A large number of acceptance have already been received by Dr. Walton, secretary and treasurer of the society, and the occasion promises to be one of great pleasure and interest to those whom Dr. Shoemaker will address on the subject of the "Mineral Water Resources and Climatology of Virginia and North Carolina."

Among those registered here during the week were Mr. C. R. Whiting, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Mr. N. J. Webb, Roxbury, N. C.; Mr. R. A. Marshall, Cincinnati, Ohio; Mr. L. D. Daniels, Chicago; Mr. W. T. Jones, of Fredericksburg; Mr. C. E. Crabb, Baltimore; Mr. P. A. Blane, New York City, and Mr. G. P. Shackelford, Mr. J. J. Hickey, Mr. W. Y. Minor, Mr. E. T. Cannon, Richmond, and Mr. H. M. Gunn, Bristol, England.

SASH BLINDS DOORS

We are large manufacturers of all kinds of High-Grade Mill-Work, including Sash, Blinds, Doors, Mouldings and Interior Finish, Porch and Stair Work, Mantels, Brackets, etc.

We also carry the largest general assortment of Yellow Pine, White Pine, Hard Wood and Mahogany lumber in the South.

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Corrugated and V-Crimp Roofing, Painted and Galvanized.

"Bestoid" Rubber Roofing.
Carey's Magnesia Cement Roofing.
Tarred Paper.
Tin Plate.

Hardware, Lime, Cement, Terra Cotta Pipe.

If you think oak and pine wood is too high to burn, keep it and order a load of my Dry Hickory Blocks and Oak Outdoors. It is the cheapest.

Lump Coal for your grate, New River Coal for your range. Stove and Nut Anthracite Coal is good anywhere you put it, because it is the free burning kind.

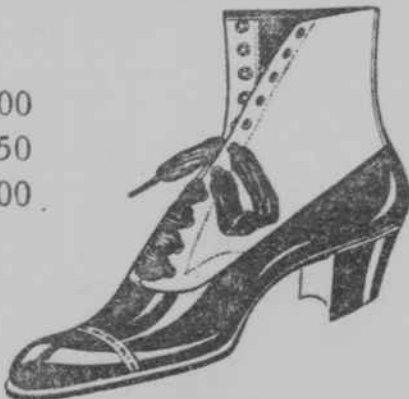
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WHAT a mistake for any woman to sacrifice her possibilities of Style on the altar of a bargain counter by buying cheap shoes! For a very little more she might have the Style of a "Dorothy Dodd" Shoe. But to save that little, she pinches and crowds her feet, endures discomfort, and loses the whole element of Style at a very important point in her costume. To such a woman we only say—just try a "Dorothy Dodd."

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